

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 87-267

In the Matter of

Review of Technical  
Assignment Criteria  
for the AM Broadcast  
Service

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR  
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR  
FILING COMMENTS AND  
REPLY COMMENTS

Adopted: December 11, 1987; Released: December 15, 1987

By the Chief, Mass Media Bureau:

1. On August 17, 1987, the Commission released a *Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry)* in MM Docket 87-267 for the purpose of providing a comprehensive review of the technical principles pertaining to AM broadcast assignment criteria and related issues in order to identify needed changes that would permit AM stations to improve their service and enhance their ability to compete in the market place.<sup>1</sup> The deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in this proceeding are currently December 17, 1987 and February 17, 1988, respectively.<sup>2</sup>

2. On December 1, 1987, a motion for extension of these filing deadlines was filed by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). The motion requests that the deadline for comments be extended until June 17, 1988 and that the reply comment deadline be extended to August 17, 1988. In requesting a general extension of approximately 180 days, the NAB noted that the Commission may wish to extend by a lesser complement of time the comment and reply comment dates concerning less controversial or less complicated issues raised in the *Inquiry*.<sup>3</sup>

3. In support of its motion for extension of the filing deadlines, the NAB explains that it has undertaken two major technical studies which will provide a meaningful contribution to the record in this proceeding. The completion of these two studies will take several months and their analysis will require additional months of study in order to prepare the comments. The NAB also points to the importance of its Annual Engineering Conference in April of 1988 and the completion of additional work by NRSC in March of 1988 in the development of useful comments in this proceeding. Finally, NAB characterizes the process of improving the AM broadcasting service as "highly detailed and complex" and therefore urges the Commission to extend the deadlines so that the record will be complete and comprehensive.

4. On December 9, 1987, GSM Media Corporation (GSM) filed comments on NAB's motion for an extension of time. GSM agrees with NAB that certain issues ad-

ressed in the *Inquiry* do not require extensive research and therefore can be resolved more quickly. GSM contends that there is a need for immediate improvement of the AM service if it is to remain competitive and therefore argues that proposals concerning interference received and new skywave propagation curves should be reviewed and implemented as expeditiously as possible.

5. We agree with NAB's assessment of the complexities of the issues under study in the *Inquiry*. We have been working with the public and the private sector through our Advisory Committee on Radio Broadcasting and we believe that the NAB studies will add to our knowledge and inform our decision making. Furthermore, we agree with both NAB and GSM that certain issues in the *Inquiry* do not require an extended comment period and can be fully addressed without the results of the types of technical studies which the NAB is undertaking. The *Inquiry* is divided into four sections: we feel that Section II - Additional Assignment Considerations and Section III - Related Technical Issues can be addressed by interested commenters within a shortened time frame.

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT the Motion for Extension of Comment and Reply Comment Dates filed by the National Association of Broadcasters IS GRANTED. The dates for filing comments and reply comments on Sections II (Additional Assignment Criteria) and III (Related Technical Issues) of the *Inquiry* are EXTENDED to February 1, 1988 and March 1, 1988, respectively. The dates for filing comments and reply comments on all other sections of the *Inquiry* are EXTENDED as requested to June 17, 1988 and August 17, 1988, respectively.

7. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in Section 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended and Sections 0.204(b), 0.283, 1.46 and 1.45 of the Commission's Rules.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Alex D. Felker  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> FCC 87-245, adopted July 16, 1987, 2 FCC Rcd. 5014 (1987).

<sup>2</sup> 52 Fed. Reg. 31,795 (August 24, 1987). The current deadlines were established by *Erratum*, released September 3, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> The NAB filed a petition with the Commission on November 6, 1987 requesting the adoption of the 1987 NRSC standard AM preemphasis curve and the standard 10 kHz audio bandwidth. On December 9, 1987, the NAB's *Petition for Rule Making*, RM 6174, went out on public notice and comments are due January 25, 1988. In its public notice releasing the NAB's *Petition for comment*, the Commission took note of the relationship between the issues in the petition and one of the issues raised in the *Inquiry*. The NAB urges in its instant motion for extension of time that this particular matter be expedited.